

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hiroshi SATOH et al.
Title: STEERING CONTROL APPARATUS AND
METHOD FOR AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLE
Appl. No.: 10/812,915
Filing Date: 3/31/2004
Examiner: Brian J. Broadhead
Art Unit: 3661
Confirmation Number: 5697

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of either a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application. Accordingly, pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(d), a statement and fee are required.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Documents A1 and A2 listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 are in English and were cited in a German Office Action issued in a counterpart German application on September 22, 2006. According to an English translation of the German Office Action obtained by Applicants' representative, the German Patent Office made certain characterizations of the references. A copy of the German Office Action and the English-language translation thereof is attached. As noted, the characterizations of the German Patent Office noted above are based on an English translation obtained by Applicant's representative. The disclosure of these characterizations should not be construed as an admission of or agreement with the opinions expressed in the German Office Action.

A copy of U.S. Patent No. 6,112,845 cited in the German Office Action is not being provided since it was previously submitted to the United States Patent & Trademark Office in the above-identified application on March 31, 2004.

Applicants respectfully request that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

STATEMENT

The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any

communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to filing of this Statement.

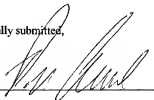
FEE

Fees in the amount of \$180.00 in accordance with 37 CFR §1.17(p) to cover the fee associated with an information disclosure statement under 37 CFR §1.97(d) are being paid by credit card via EFS-Web.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit card payment instructions in EFS-Web being incorrect or absent, resulting in a rejected or incorrect credit card transaction, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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Substitute for form 1449/PTO			Complete if Known		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: December 15, 2006 (use as many sheets as necessary)			Application Number	10/812,915	
			Filing Date	3/31/2004	
			First Named Inventor	Hiroshi SATOH	
			Art Unit	3661	
			Examiner Name	Brian J. Broadhead	
Attorney Docket Number	023484-0161				
Sheet	1	of	1		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	2002/0095246 A1	07-18-2002	KAWAZOE	

UNPUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Application Document	Filing Date of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Serial Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁴
		Country Code ² Number ³ Kind Code ² (if known)				
	A2	EP 1 298 021 A1	04-02-2003	NISSAN MOTOR COMPANY		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁴

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST 3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST 16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.